

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

DATE: January 26, 2005

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:11 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 6:23 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chairwoman
Sherron Franklin
Lynn McWhirter
William Oliver
Lincoln Plowman
Scott Schneider
Steve Talley

Absent Members

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 721, 2004 - reappoints Robert Brown to the Public Safety Board

“Do Pass”

Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 28, 2005 - confirms the Marion County Public Defender Board nomination of David Cook as Marion County Chief Public Defender

“Do Pass”

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 29, 2005 - approves an increase of \$13,900 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion County Sheriff (State & Federal Grants Fund) to fund overtime and fringe expenses for task force projects

“Do Pass”

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 30, 2005 - approves an increase of \$14,882 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion County Sheriff (State & Federal Grants Fund) to fund the purchase of supplies and services for the Bomb Vehicle

“Do Pass as Amended”

Vote:

8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 31, 2005 - approves an increase of \$10,000 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion Superior Court, Juvenile Division (State and Federal Grants Fund), to continue to fund drug court costs

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“Postponed”

Vote: 5-0

PROPOSAL NO. 32, 2005 - approves a transfer of \$92,500 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion County Justice Agency (Marion County Drug Free Fund) to pay approved grant expenses for Marion Superior Court and Marion County Prosecutor

“Do Pass”

Vote: 8-0

PROPOSAL NO. 676, 2004 - amends the Code to require that egress from exit stairwells not be restricted on intervening floors

“Postponed”

Vote: 8-0

PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council met on Wednesday, January 12, 2005. Chairwoman Mary Moriarty Adams called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m. with the following members present: Greg Bowes, Sherron Franklin, Lynn McWhirter, William Oliver, Lincoln Plowman, Scott Schneider and Steve Talley.

Chairwoman Moriarty Adams welcomed Councillor Bowes to the Public Safety Committee.

PROPOSAL NO. 31, 2005 - approves an increase of \$10,000 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion Superior Court, Juvenile Division (State and Federal Grants Fund), to continue to fund drug court costs

Councillor Oliver moved, seconded by Councillor McWhirter, to "Postpone" Proposal No. 31, 2005 until the public safety committee meeting on March 9, 2005. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 721, 2004 - reappoints Robert Brown to the Public Safety Board

Robert Brown, Board of Public Safety, stated that it has been an honor to serve on the Public Safety Board. He stated that he has been very involved in various things dealing with the different agencies but is most involved with the Animal Control Division and works a lot with IPD regarding the stun guns and tasers. He said that it has been a pleasure and he would like to continue serving on the Public Safety Board.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Bowes, to send Proposal No. 721, 2005 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 28, 2005 - confirms the Marion County Public Defender Board nomination of David Cook as Marion County Chief Public Defender

David Cook, Marion County Public Defender Agency, stated that the Public Defender Board has increased the reimbursement to Marion County from the agency receiving no reimbursement in 1995 to the agency being in full compliance and returning close to \$3 million to County General Fund in 2004. Mr. Cook said that he is always looking for opportunities to try to improve The Public Defender Board, and would like to provide better service while working with the Marion County Public Defender Board.

Councilor Bowes asked if Mr. Cook could share the mission of the Public Defender Agency regarding pro-active prevention and crime reduction. Mr. Cook stated that the mission of the agency is to evaluate the causes that make people offend, what causes people to continue to offend, and what the agency can do to provide services to help these people not offend again.

Councillor Schneider moved, seconded by Councillor Talley, to send Proposal No. 28, 2005 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 29, 2005 - approves an increase of \$13,900 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion County Sheriff (State & Federal Grants Fund) to fund overtime and fringe expenses for task force projects

Major Ron Chappel, MCSD, stated that Proposal No. 29, 2005 is a new six-month FBI grant for \$13,900 through the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Agency. The funding will be used to reimburse the deputies that work in this task force. Major Chappel said that this grant would run from October 2004 to March 13, 2005.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Schneider, to send Proposal No. 29, 2005 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 30, 2005 - approves an increase of \$14,882 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion County Sheriff (State & Federal Grants Fund) to fund the purchase of supplies and services for the Bomb Vehicle

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Bowes, to amend the digest in Proposal No. 29, 2005 to read “transfer” instead of “increase”. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

Major Chappell stated this is a request to move some of the equipment money in Character 04 to Character 02 and 03. This funding would be used to buy bid on equipment that came in for the bomb vehicle and to buy supplies for the van to make it fully equipped.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Bowes, to send Proposal No. 30, 2005 to the full Council with a “Do Pass as Amended” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 32, 2005 - approves a transfer of \$92,500 in the 2005 Budget of the Marion County Justice Agency (Marion County Drug Free Fund) to pay approved grant expenses for Marion Superior Court and Marion County Prosecutor

Diana Burleson, Director of Marion County Justice Agency, (MCJA) stated that this is an appropriation to support the salaries and fringes of the Superior Court and the Marion County Prosecutor’s office. The funding will be transferred within the MCJA’s budget from Character 03 to Character 01 for salaries.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Bowes, to send Proposal No. 32, 2005 to the full Council with a “Do Pass” recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

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PROPOSAL NO. 676, 2004 - amends the Code to require that egress from exit stairwells not be restricted on intervening floors

Marilyn Pfisterer, City-County Council, stated that the intent of this proposal is to prevent people from becoming trapped in a stairwell of a multi-story building during a fire alarm because the doors that would allow them to safely exit from that stairwell are locked. Councillor Pfisterer stated that there are a number of businesses that need to have their doors locked for security purposes, but in the event of an emergency these locked doors can become a life-threatening situation. She said there is technology that would allow the locks of these doors to be connected to the fire alarm so when the alarm is activated the locks would disengage and allow a safe escape for anyone that may be in danger. Councillor Pfisterer stated that this ordinance would mandate signs be put in place to inform people that the door will lock when you exit.

Councillor McWhirter asked when the signs would be posted in the different buildings. Councillor Pfisterer stated that the signs would have to be posted immediately.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Council Bowes to accept a Substitute version of Proposal No.676, 2004, which is exhibit A. This motion carried a vote of 8-0

[Clerk's note: exhibit A is on file in the council office with the original set of minutes.]

Chairwoman Moriarty Adams asked, if the doors unlock when the alarm sounds currently. Councillor Pfisterer stated that in some of the buildings they do unlock, but in most buildings they do not.

Chief James Greeson, IFD, stated that most of IFD is in favor of the proposal. He stated that the Fire Prevention Committee of the Marion County Fire Chiefs Association is reviewing this information and they have not reported back to Marion County Fire Chiefs about the ordinance. The Fire Prevention Committee is in support of the ordinance; however they are questioning the ability to enforce the ordinance. Councillor Pfisterer stated that she has spoken with a number of the Marion County Fire Chiefs and representatives of the Marion County Fire Chiefs Association, and they are in support of this proposal and had no further suggestion. Chief Greeson stated that it is not an issue of whether anyone is against this proposal or in support of it, but an issue of making sure that the language in the proposal matches the code, and whether it can be enforced properly. Chief Greeson said that once the Fire Prevention Committee conducts their meeting on February 10, 2005 a decision would be made.

Councillor Talley stated that in order to have this proposal presented to the full council on March 7, 2005 there would have to be a special Public Safety Committee meeting. This will allow enough time for the Fire Prevention Committee to review the proposal, provide their information to the Public Safety Committee, and then allow the Public Safety Committee to vote and get this to the full council with a "do pass" recommendation.

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Councillor McWhirter stated that the Marion County Fire Chiefs and the Marion County Chiefs Association have had more than enough time to get this done and that she would be disappointed if a decision is not made by then.

Councillor Schneider asked if this is the code in most other cities. Councillor Pfisterer answered in the negative. Councillor Schneider asked if there is any information on the cost to install this safety feature. Clyde Pfisterer, Battalion Chief of IFD, stated that he is not sure of the estimated price range but it would depend on the structure of the building. Councillor Schneider asked if this would apply to multi-story buildings. Councillor Pfisterer answered in the affirmative.

Councillor Talley moved, seconded by Councillor Bowes, to Postpone Proposal No.676, 2004 to a special meeting on February 23, 2005. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0.

New Business:

Councillor Plowman stated that he feels the City-County Council should be more involved with the decision of the Indy Works Program. He said that the council was elected to represent the citizens of Marion County and he would encourage everyone to be mindful of the reasons they were elected.

CONCLUSION

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Moriarty Adams, Chairwoman
Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee

MMA/rjp